

The first thing brought before the meeting was the financial position and management of Knox College *Monthly*. Though improving financially and now on a paying basis, there is ample room yet for improvement, especially in the way of paying up over-due subscriptions, which if it were done would greatly relieve any present difficulty in the way of its more efficient management. Substantially, the editorial arrangements continue as in the past.

The question of holding another post-graduate session, or conference of ten days or so, such as has already been held, was discussed, and it was resolved that in January of next year such a conference should take place. In addition to professors, the names of a number of others, ministers and laymen, were mentioned to be asked to take part in the conference. The subjects to be treated, and an outline of a programme to be perfected by a committee having charge of the matter, was generally agreed upon.

At the evening session a conference was held upon the vexed question, introduced, by previous arrangement, by the Rev. Alexander Gilray, on "How best to secure the settlement of pastoral charges." That the subject is a living one was made evident by the large number who took part in the discussion. It was felt to be surrounded by difficulties, and both these were pointed out and hints of ways out of them suggested. In addition to an increase of spiritual life in the Church, as being most necessary, it was suggested that probationers should be appointed to vacancies for some months, rather than for a Sabbath or two; that a limit should be set by Presbytery to the length of time a vacancy should be allowed, and also a minister kept on the probationer's list; that every application for preaching by vacancies and by ministers should come only through a Synod Committee appointed to take charge of this matter; and that there should be an increase of Presbyterial oversight and control. The opinion was expressed also that the present general preference for young over old men is a passing or transitional state of things and will in time work its own cure. The general trend of discussion conveyed the impression that the question, though a difficult one, is not yet hopeless. The large committee of the church entrusted with it was referred to, and it is hoped that its labors may result in some definite and feasible way out of the difficulty the church is now in as regards this matter. The Rev. Dr. Somerville was elected to represent the alumni on the Senate of Knox College and Rev. Peter Straith, M.A., of Innerkip, was chosen president of the Alumni Association for the ensuing year.

The closing exercises of the college proper began on the afternoon of Thursday in the Convocation Hall, which, as is usual on such occasions, was completely filled by the students and their friends, and ministers in the city and from a distance. The Rev. Principal Caven presided and beside him on the platform were the professors and members of the College Board. The Principal addressed the audience and students about to graduate and leave the college halls, naturally referring to the loss the college had sustained in the death of the late Professor Thompson and bearing the highest testimony to his character, his high attainments and qualifications as a professor. He then called upon the Rev. John Neil, who, as acting president of the Alumni Association, presented through Mortimer Clark, Esq., as chairman of the College Board, to the College, on behalf of the alumni, a portrait of the late Professor, which he unveiled, done in oil by Mr. Forster, whose work in the excellent portraits of Principal Caven, D.D., and of the late Professor Young, already adorns the college walls. Mr. Neil in happy terms bore the warmest testimony as a friend and fellow student to the ability, worth and excellence in every respect of the departed professor whom to know was to admire and love. Mr. Clark in brief but suitable words, in the name of the College Board, accepted the portrait presented.

Rev. Professor Maclaren proposed for the degree of D.D. the name of the Rev. Edward Graham, a former alumnus of the college, but now and for many years resident in California, which was done in his absence by Principal Caven. The Rev. D. M. Ramsay, B.D., who has temporarily been performing a part of the work of the late Professor Thompson, presented for the degree of B.D. Rev. R. G. Murrison, B.A., now of British Columbia,

who acquitted himself with marked distinction in the examination required for this degree.

The Rev. W. G. Wallace, chairman of the Examining Board, read the results of the examinations just closed, which he said showed a distinct advance in the answers given over those of some previous years. The students graduating, whose names have already appeared in the daily press, and which we will give in full next week, were called up in turn and presented by the Principal of the college with their diplomas amid the cheering of their fellow-students.

In the evening a closing public meeting was held in Old St. Andrew's Church (the Rev. Dr. Milligan's) which was well filled with friends of the college and students. The Rev. Principal Caven again presided, and with him in the pulpit were the Rev. Professors Maclaren and Gregg and Rev. Dr. Milligan. After devotional exercises the Rev. Dr. Caven specially addressed the graduating students, in his usual happy and impressive manner, in view of the work to which they had devoted themselves, the qualifications they should seek for it, and the manner in which they should do it, and conduct their life.

Very instructive and stimulating addresses were also given by Mr. John A. Patterson, Barrister, and Rev. J. A. Turnbull, LL.B., of West Church;—the former on the adapting by ministers of their pulpit ministrations to the present, felt, everyday needs of their hearers, and the importance of setting before themselves high ideals of personal character and work; and by the latter on "The Right use of the Word of God as the Instrumentality by which the Minister is to do his Work." The meeting was closed by the Rev. Professor Gregg pronouncing the benediction.

HOME MISSION DEFICIT.

THE following letter has been sent to all the Ministers and Missionaries of the Church. It speaks for itself and lays before the Church a state of things as to Home Missions and missionaries which should be felt by every member and adherent of our Church, and promptly acted upon, especially by those 250 congregations and mission stations which up to date had given nothing to the fund. Let it be remembered that in addition to the loss our missionaries will sustain by the deficit in the Home Mission Fund, many of their congregations are unable to give what they have promised, causing thus a double loss to those little able to bear it, and in addition to this and the argument of brotherly sympathy for those who must suffer, if this deficit is not made up, let it be felt by all, that the Church is bound in honour to keep its engagements and make good its promises to the missionaries we employ.—[ED.]

MY DEAR SIR,—At the recent meeting of the Home Mission Committee, it was found that the entire contributions received up to 25th March, were \$18,500 less than the amount of the claims due at that date. But for moneys sent by the British churches, the deficit would have been \$26,000.

Presuming that there may be received from congregational contributions, not yet forwarded, the sum of \$8,000 (which is a very generous estimate), the additional sum of \$10,000 remains to be provided, if the Missionaries are to be paid in full, as they ought to be.

In view of these facts the Committee passed the following resolutions:

"That in view, according to an estimate made, of a probable deficit of \$10,000 at the close of the year next month, the Committee agree to pay meantime, to the several Presbyteries, 75 per cent. of the claims passed for this half year now ending, and on the first of May to distribute *pro rata* the amount which may then be in hand, in the earnest hope that special efforts may be made by Ministers, Sessions and congregations throughout the Church, so that sufficient funds may be forthcoming by the 1st of May to enable the Committee to pay the grants in full.

"The Committee being exceedingly solicitous that the amounts to be deducted from the grants of Missionaries should be as small as possible, requested the Convener to prepare a special circular to all congregations and mission stations, setting forth the urgent need of the fund at the present crisis, and that Dr. Robertson be instructed to spend the time between now and the end of April in visiting congregations in Ontario and Quebec, laying before them the state of the fund, and securing Sabbath collections, and subscriptions by personal canvas, so as to enable the Committee as far as possible, to make good their promises to the various Missionaries. In addition to this the members of the Committee pledge themselves to obtain additional contributions to the best of their ability from the congregations within their respective Presbyteries."

An examination of the books showed that on the 25th of March, 250 congregations and mission stations (the latter aided by the fund), had sent nothing whatever, while in the case of many the contributions sent were less than last year.

May I therefore earnestly request:

1. That Ministers and Missionaries bring the state of the fund before their congregations at the earliest opportunity, in order that those who have neglected sending in their contributions may do so at once, and that a special appeal be made to congregations that are able to increase their contributions beyond what they have already sent.

2. That Ministers and congregations desiring to secure the assistance of Dr. Robertson in addressing their congregations or collecting moneys to meet the deficit, correspond with him forthwith, and that the representatives of the several Presbyteries on the Home Mission Committee, cordially co-operate with him in his efforts, and personally visit congregations, that he may be unable to reach.

Whatever can be done *must be done quickly*. The contributions received during the month of April will determine whether the grants are to be paid in full or not.

Yours very truly,

WM. COGHRANE,

Convener Home Mission Committee.

Books and Magazines.

SHORT STUDIES IN ETHICS, an Elementary Text-Book for Schools by Rev. J. O. Millar, M.A., Principal of Bishop Ridley College, Toronto, the Bryant Press. Price 50 cents.

"This book," the author tells us, "has grown out of periodical addresses to my own pupils." Ten years experience has convinced him of the necessity of such teaching as is here given. It consists of twenty-four short chapters on as many subjects, written in simple language, abounding in apt illustrations, and so interesting, practical and easily mastered. It begins with Duty and ends with Conscience and between are treated such subjects as, "Truthfulness," "Purity," "Profanity," "Industry," "Self-Control," "Character." It is well calculated to be useful in the school or family and we heartily commend it.

As inspiring sketch of the life and character of the late Dr. A. J. Gordon, written with warmly sympathetic interest and affection, and accompanied by an admirable portrait, is the article which Dr. Pierson, his intimate friend and collaborer, opens *The Missionary Review of the World* for April. This sketch is followed by a last article, from the pen of Dr. Gordon on "The Apostle Columba," accompanied by photographs of the cathedral and other buildings on the island of Iona, the centre of the apostle's labors for the evangelization of Ireland and Scotland. This number of the *Review* also contains a series of extremely interesting articles upon the empire of India. The International Department contains valuable articles on "Higher Education" and "Present Status of Missions in Theological Seminaries." The Editorial and General Intelligence Departments contain, as usual, a vast amount of recent news and judicious comments concerning the affairs of the kingdom at home and abroad. Funk & Wagnalls Company, 30 Lafayette Place, New York City.

Among the subjects discussed in the April number of the *Presbyterian* and *Reformed Review* are "Christianity and the Experimental Method," "The Messianic Idea in the Prophets," "The Formation of the New Testament," "Origin and Composition of Genesis," W. G. T. Sheld, "The Latest Ecclesiastical Movements in Germany," by able and well known contributors. To these and other articles are to be added a large number of books reviewed in "Recent Theological Literature," under the heads of Exegetical, Historical, Systematic and Practical Theology, and others under the heads of Philological, Oriental and General Literature. MacCalla and Company 237 9 Dock Street, Philadelphia.

Besides its usual bill of first class fare, *Harper's Magazine* for April contains as special features, all fully illustrated except the last: "Personal Recollections of Joan of Arc," that subject of never-failing interest; "Our National Capital," by Julian Ralph; "Paris in Mourning," by Richard Harding Davis; "Club Life Among Outcasts"; "Venice in Easter"; "Autumn in Japan"; and "Recent Progress in the Public Schools," by W. T. Harris, U.S. Commissioner of Education. The short stories are three in number, and striking poems three. The Editor's Study and Drawer are interesting, and as usual suggestive. Harper & Brothers, New York, U.S.

The Treasury of Religious Thought, for April, completes a volume which may compare not unfavorably with any earlier one. It begins with a sermon on "The Compulsion of Love," by Rev. W. F. Anderson, a successful pastor. The other sermons and notes of sermons are by representative men, and of a high order. Dr. Brown, of New Haven, gives the third of the series of essays on "Two Decades of Religious Progress." The number contains a full and valuable index of the sermons, texts, authors, and articles of the year 1894-95. The editorial suggests the ideal of a Christian magazine, and foreshadows improvements contemplated for the next volume. E. B. Treat, 5 Cooper Union New York.